

PLAIN TALKS

JANUARY
1981



MAIL BOX

THE COVER

Line Department employees located in the Beaumont service center may have the only combination coffee shop/museum in the company.

The coffee shop contains mementos of an earlier era with its collection of discarded insulators, cross-arms, New Orleans-style acorn streetlamps and other gadgets. Built entirely by Line Department employees on days when they could not be out in the field, the shop features antique and interesting items donated by employees, New Orleans Public Service and others.

Hanging above the sink is the half-century-old electric Gulf States Utilities Co. sign that identified the old Hull, Texas, office. Pictures from the past also hang on the walls.

Line Department employees (from left) Jim Lusk, Donna Mayhan, Carolyn Odgen and Sedonia Broussard visit during a break, while seated at a table created from an old reel treated with epoxy for a gleaming finish.

The coffee shop is located on the second floor of the Line Department building.

Gulf States Utilities
Lake Charles, Louisiana

Sirs:

I just want to say that there is the kindest man who answers the "trouble" telephone and who really gives marvelous service.

My lights were out last night and he had someone there very promptly.

I've called him many times over the years. He's always patient and considerate. I don't know his name but he's a splendid person.

Mrs. Harry Gaines
2130 18th Street
Lake Charles, La. 70601

Gulf States Utilities
Conroe, Texas

I was really glad to see the enclosed pamphlet about planting for better energy use.

Anything that encourages people to save trees or plant native trees pleases me very much. The native trees are so necessary for holding the soil and preventing flooding — and for encouraging birds.

Education, such as you are doing with your pamphlets, is very worthwhile. Maybe one day we'll get energy credits for planting trees in the right places.

Carol Kobb
Conroe, Texas

Editor's Note: Ms. Kobb was referring to a GSU bill insert entitled "Planting Your Way to Energy Efficiency: It's a Good Idea" when she sent this note back with her bill payment.

Norman R. Lee
Gulf States Utilities
Beaumont, Texas
Dear Mr. Lee:

We wish to advise you that your staff participated as a volunteer instructor during the Southeast Texas Industrial First Aid and Rescue School.

This letter is for their files and is our way of saying thank you to H. L. Craig and Jessie Bellair, both of Port Arthur, David Hernandez of Beaumont and Michael Denton of Neches Station.

It is also to thank you, because, whether permission was given by the company or the time was put in on the volunteers' own time, an attitude of civic responsibility on the part of the management of a company usually shows up in the actions of employees.

Several hundred students attended and the school was a success.

Thank you,
Walter H. Nebgen
Safety Director
American Red Cross

Mailbox continued on page 23.

PLAIN TALKS

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Employees who change residences or offices should fill out company mailing-address-change forms (GSU0012-00-79) and return them to the mailroom in the Wilson Building. GSU publications, departmental mailings and other company information are not automatically forwarded; addresses must be corrected when employees move.

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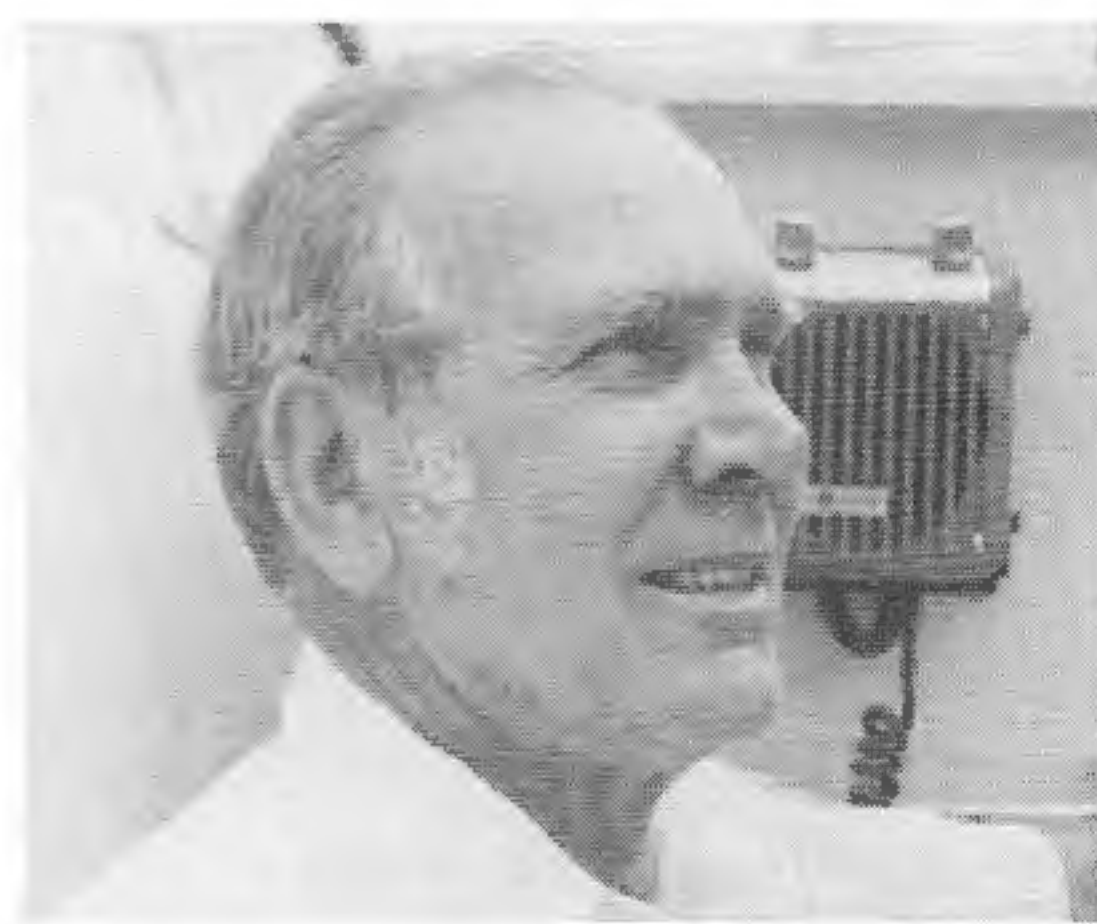
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British group tours River Bend

A delegation representing the British National Nuclear Corporation toured River Bend on November 19th, reports Dr. J. G. Weigand, GSU's vice president-operations and technical systems for the River Bend Nuclear Group.

The visitors were accompanied by some Bechtel employees.

Dr. Weigand praised Andy Dreher, communications coordinator at the River Bend site, for organizing the tour and a brief visit and lunch at the nearby Myrtles Plantation.

Agency praises GSU employees

A public relations agency handling the energy conservation awareness campaign for the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources for the past two years has praised the work of several Baton Rouge Division employees.

According to John Rousseau, program coordinator for the Weill, Strother, East, Inc. agency, Gulf Staters have helped educate the public about the need for energy conservation.

In a November letter to division Vice President Calvin Herbert, Rousseau commented, "During this time, public sentiment has changed from skepticism of an energy shortage to one of general concern. Much of this progress in increased awareness can be credited to Harriet Babin and the staff of GSU's Consumer Services Department."

Also credited were John Yarbrough, Shivaun Tessier, Greg Shepard and Pris Gallagher, as well as Bill Benedetto of Public Affairs.

Realtors honor James Minner



James Minner, a Port Arthur Division employee, was honored in mid-December by the Port Neches-Port Arthur-Nederland Board of Realtors, which named him "Outstanding Civic Worker for South Jefferson County."

A Port Arthur native, Minner is supervisor of building and garage services based at the Port Arthur service center.

He was chosen for his work in civic and church organizations over the past 25 years, including the Huguen Center for Crippled Children and Adults, the Yellow Jacket Alumni Organization and the Greater Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce.

A member of St. Catherine of Sienna Church, he is past president of the Ushers Society. During his term as Grand Knight of the Immaculate Conception Council of Knights of Columbus, the council's first home was constructed.

He organized the first March of Dimes drive for Groves and helped plan the first Groves Fourth of July festival.

He has also been active with local activities of the American Cancer Society, the Easter Seal Drive and the American Heart Fund.

Minner was chosen by a selection committee of the board of Realtors from nominations received from the general public.

The 42-year veteran of Gulf States is married to the former Ella Sue Olivier. The couple has one daughter, Sue Ellen McClure.

Investments given for Thrift Plan

Investments made by the Thrift Plan trustee during December, 1980, covering employee deductions and company contributions through November, 1980, included the purchase of 16,417 shares of common stock at a total cost of \$180,587. The average cost per share was \$11.

The trustee also deposited \$143,809.38 in savings with First Security Bank of Beaumont and \$24,567.52 in guaranteed fixed income fund with the Equitable Life Assurance Society.

Couple lauds four employees

An Austin couple recently praised four employees for their actions during a weather-related mishap at the Beaumont home of some of their friends. In a letter to the editor of the Beaumont Enterprise, published in the Nov. 21 edition of the paper, Steve and Elva Price commended the members of GSU units number 4 and 6 for helping clean up and restore electric service after an October rain storm caused a large oak tree to crash on the home of Dr. and Mrs. C. J. Ruilmann.

Unit 4 members are C. W. Stracener, serviceman-1st class, and Albert Clay, serviceman-4th class. Unit 6 members are J. L. Childress, serviceman-1st class, and Allen Melton, serviceman-4th class.

Fourth-graders offer thoughts on electric safety

Fourth-graders at Ridgewood Elementary School in the Port Arthur Division recently put their thoughts about safety around electricity into essay form, reports Kathleen Reed, consumer service representative.

While some of the results may not have been grammatically correct, the youngsters nevertheless offered some helpful tips, Mrs. Reed notes.

Young Chad O'Donnell's unedited essay states: "The stuff I learned is that you should stay away from non enselated (sic) wires, and that energy takes a shorter path and sometimes a person or thing could be the shorter path, and think 'Zap!' before you go into water when there is a storm and watch out for trees that have wires in them and think 'Zap!' before you go under a tree and there is a thunderstorm coming, and I learned that energy can be a friend like terning (sic) on and off lights, here's an example (he sketched light switches showing both the on and the off positions) and I liked it and I think other kids should see it."

Jason Goodwin divided his thoughts into separate sentences: "I learned that electricity goes from power plant to substation to the home and then to the wall socket. I learned how a fire starts when the plastic or rubber covering is broken. I learned electricity takes the shortest route. I learned when someone gets their kite stuck in power lines, don't get on a tree and try to get it down. And I also learned you can put water on electrical fires when the power source is cleared from the fire. And I learned keep your eyes open."



United Way givers exceed 1980 goal

"Fair share" givers, including some who gave even more, in the Baton Rouge Division helped boost that division's United Way collection during the 1980 campaign to more than 10 percent above the division's goal.

According to Don Musso, 1980 campaign chairman and mechanic-1st class at Choctaw garage, the division received pledges totaling \$86,380. Goal for the division was \$78,517.

Serving as co-chairmen of the division campaign were Richard East and Larry Myers.

Pictured are three employees who gave more than their designated fair share — (from left) Anthony Williams, substation; Millard Allain, garage; and Steve Theriot, Gas Department.

Retirees' list corrections given

The following changes should be noted for the Annuitant's Directory printed in the November issue of *Plain Talks*:

— L. T. Haney of Sugarland, Texas, was inadvertently listed as L. H. Haney. The name Lee T. Haney of Navasota, Texas, should be deleted. (Haney simply moved from Navasota to Sugarland.)

— Robert E. Morton of Navasota, Texas, is deceased.

— Edroy Gaines of P. O. Box 1335, Navasota, Texas 77868, was accidentally left off the list.

— John R. Wright's address was incomplete. The full address is Route 1, Box 321 F, Cleveland, Texas 77327.



Hobbies seem to have become quite a fad in America. Why else would January have been designated National Hobby Month, or Carol Burnett, television's funny lady, have chaired the 1981 event?

More than anything else, however, hobbies remain just plain fun to many people, including Gulf Staters and their families who have delved in all kinds of after-work activities. A few examples are adventurous sports, chicken raising, orchid cultivation, arts and crafts and culinary creativity.

Although most hobbyists attribute their involvement in a particular activity to an attempt to relax, some hobbies seem to keep them just as busy in their spare time as some jobs.

For instance, Gloria Menard, wife of L. J. Menard, Lake Charles meter reader supervisor, hand sews and embroiders infants' baptismal dresses and bonnets. Her skillful stitchery has meant additional income for the Menard family, since she now sells the tiny garments to three stores.

Besides the time-consuming needlework, the Lake Charles woman reports that she must also

spend some time getting the right materials. "The greatest problem," she says, "is obtaining material, as it is not available in our area. Both the batiste (a fine soft, sheer fabric) and the French lace must be ordered from New York."



Gloria Menard, Lake Charles

Although Mrs. Menard had long been a seamstress, she only took up the more intricate hobby of handsewing infants' garments after she underwent back surgery three years ago and needed something to occupy herself during her recovery.

Sports big attraction

Fishing would be voted the national pastime if that were left up to the people in the Orange District, reports Doris Wallace, *Plain Talks* correspondent.

While perhaps not as demanding a hobby as the one enjoyed by Mrs. Menard, outdoor sports nevertheless require some degree of skill and a great deal of preparation.

Wallace says her unofficial poll of Orange employees revealed that many men and women name fishing as a favorite leisure activity. Even those with other interesting, unusual hobbies confessed to enjoying outdoor sports, she adds.

Lisa Sanford, an Orange meter reader, goes all out for outdoor hobbies, describing her favorite — actually a combination of several

— as “adventure-seeking.” The young employee is currently preoccupied with scuba diving. “I’m fascinated by the fish and the things you can find underwater,” she explains. Although she notes that there are plenty of area locations suitable for diving, she says she plans to vacation in Florida and Mexico “to explore.” Sanford

Arts, crafts appealing

Crafts are popular with many Orange employees, including Sharon Young, whose friends receive many of her handmade macrame gifts, and Sharon Derise, who solves a lot of Christmas shopping problems with her ceramics and dried flower arrangements. Both women are

and still-life renderings. While much of her work is in the form of landscapes on filled canvases, Hayes also decorates crock pots, hardhats and other gadgets with her artwork. She and her husband, Lamar, who works for Mobil, frame her canvases themselves. Her husband, she says, is her best critic.

After-hours with GSUers

also enjoys sailing, dancing, ballooning, sailplaning, playing the piano and drawing and painting.

The youthful Renaissance woman reveals that all her paintings and drawings have a story behind them. Even so, she claims, “I didn’t even know I could draw or paint until I was a senior in high school.”

Scuba diving also appeals to Sabine Station employee Thor Homme. The mechanic-2nd class dives for the U. S. Army Reserve and in his spare time.

Other Orange employees who indulge in hobbies are Ed Matsoukas, consumer service advisor, who shares his parents’ hobby of collecting and restoring “very classy, original cars”; Stanley LeBouef, distribution supervisor, who gardens and refinishes old furniture; and Wayne Broussard, storekeeper, who coaches his young daughters’ softball team, even though he admits his biggest obstacle is getting the little girls “to pay attention.”

More offbeat hobbies include those of Lucy Sciarillo, customer accounting clerk, who makes homemade pasta with a special hand-operated machine; Ruby Brown, cashier, who began treasure-hunting with her husband after receiving a metal detector for Christmas in 1979; and Audrey McDonald, PBX operator, who insists that her hobby is keeping up with the Dallas Cowboys.

clerks in customer accounting. Derise has even made some money with her dried flower arrangements.

Kami Wright, a vocational office education clerk, also works with ceramics, and Cheryl Choate, a temporary clerk, hooks rugs. Viva Parkhurst, senior clerk, pieces quilts, an art she says she learned while sitting at her mama’s feet. “I piece quilts for love, not money,” Parkhurst states firmly.

In Beaumont, 20-year GSUer Faye Hayes says her favorite hobby is painting — and her brushes produce detailed scenery

Hayes, an engineering assistant in the scheduling department, reportedly sometimes suffers bruised knees from having knelt so long while painting in details.

Although Hayes’ meticulous efforts have resulted in professional-looking paintings, she has only painted for 2½ years. The left-hander concedes that she loved to color as a child, but delayed taking formal art lessons until recently, when she studied under two Beaumont instructors.

While she says she has no regular time set aside for painting, Hayes comments that once



Faye Hayes, Beaumont



Kami Wright, Sharon Young and Cheryl Choate



Ed Matsoukas, Orange

she begins a canvas, she can't wait to complete it. She spent about a year filling the canvas for one 24-inch x 36-inch painting. Hayes does most of her work free-hand, but occasionally first draws in certain portions of a painting.

Orchid hobby blooming

Nelson Station employee Carl Bradley happened on his hobby during a trip to Hawaii about six years ago.

He and his wife returned from the tropical vacation with two orchids, an acquisition that led the couple to join the Orchid Society and experiment with growing the exotic plants. Soon, Bradley's collection had gotten so large that he built a new greenhouse to accommodate it. Although it is mostly filled with orchids, the structure also houses some bromeliads and ivy.

According to Bradley, it takes about five to eight years to grow an orchid from a seed to the

blooming stage. Instead, he purchases plant divisions that bloom within one to three years, pots them in fir bark and waters them often. Although most species bloom annually, Bradley has one plant that has bloomed three to four times within one year. While he does not have a wide variety of species, he possesses about 200 plants with more than 100 different crosses and species.

Bradley has given away some of his plants and sold one. Later, he hopes to sell divisions and blooms.

Another employee at the same power plant — Gail W. Richardson, mechanical maintenance foreman — became interested in woodworking after he helped with a church remodeling project.

His first project alone was the construction of a double bed with drawers for a granddaughter. He then built a canopy bed, a mate's bed and a tester bed with drawers for his other grandchildren.

Richardson also has built furni-

ture for his own home.

Currently involved in making miniature picnic tables that hold salt and pepper shakers and ketchup and mustard bottles, Richardson says he plans to design a cedar table and bench when he retires from Gulf States. And, upon retirement, he speculates that he "may go into making things for money."

Domestic arts attract

In nearby Lake Charles, Gloria Menard is not the only GSU family member with a hobby.

Others with a knack for sewing are Doris Hay, consumer affairs coordinator, who does cross-stitch embroidery for gifts, and Ethel Broussard, the wife of employee Wilfred Broussard, who hand-tailors shirts, including her specialty — Western-style shirts.

Broussard himself, a consumer service coordinator, reveals that his pet hobby is raising chickens. He has White Rocks, Production Reds and Araucanas, which lay



Wilfred Broussard, feeds some of his chickens, while his wife, Ethel, displays some of her hand-tailored Western-style shirts.





Tam James, Sharon Bourgeois and Linda Furrate

green eggs, as well as Red Lace and Dark Cornish chickens. According to Broussard, he has separate chicken houses and pens for each variety so as to maintain pure breeds. Over a recent three-month period, the Broussards dressed 50 fryers for their freezer. The Broussards also enjoy horse-back riding.

Marie Prejean, accounting department clerk, gets at least one order a week for her decorated cakes. She first signed up for a cake decorating class about five years ago and followed up three years later with an advanced course. She keeps a scrapbook with pictures of all her creations.

Although Jerilyn Mayo learned to paint on glass just a few months ago, she has already taught the technique to three other persons. The wife of Bob Mayo, Lake Charles consumer service representative, Mrs. Mayo first traces a picture onto the back of a piece of glass, then fills it in with oil paints. Citing the differences

between painting on canvas and glass, she notes, "Among the advantages is the fact that it is easy to correct mistakes, because the paint just wipes off the glass with a cloth. But among the disadvantages is the length of time it takes for a picture to dry because the glass is non-porous."

Wood creations

In his spare time, 26-year GSU veteran Van Hereford creates scale "half-models" of sailboats, then mounts them into shadow-boxes. Hereford, who is superintendent-Baton Rouge Division accounting, draws the sailboats to scale, then reproduces a "half-model" by carving the hull and other parts.

Another Baton Rouge employee — Ray Creel, claims representative — carves wooden items tiny enough to fit into the compartments of the popular printer's boxes.

Other Baton Rouge employees who have hobbies are Tam James,



Marie Prejean, Lake Charles

Sharon Bourgeois and Linda Furrate. All three customer accounting clerks work with ceramics in their spare time.



Editor's Note: Contributors for the following article included several Plain Talks correspondents. They were Bonnie Duval, Sabine Station; Connie Herford, Nelson Station; Anna Raymond, Lake Charles; Joe Russian, Beaumont; Shivaun Tessier, Baton Rouge; and Doris Wallace, Orange.

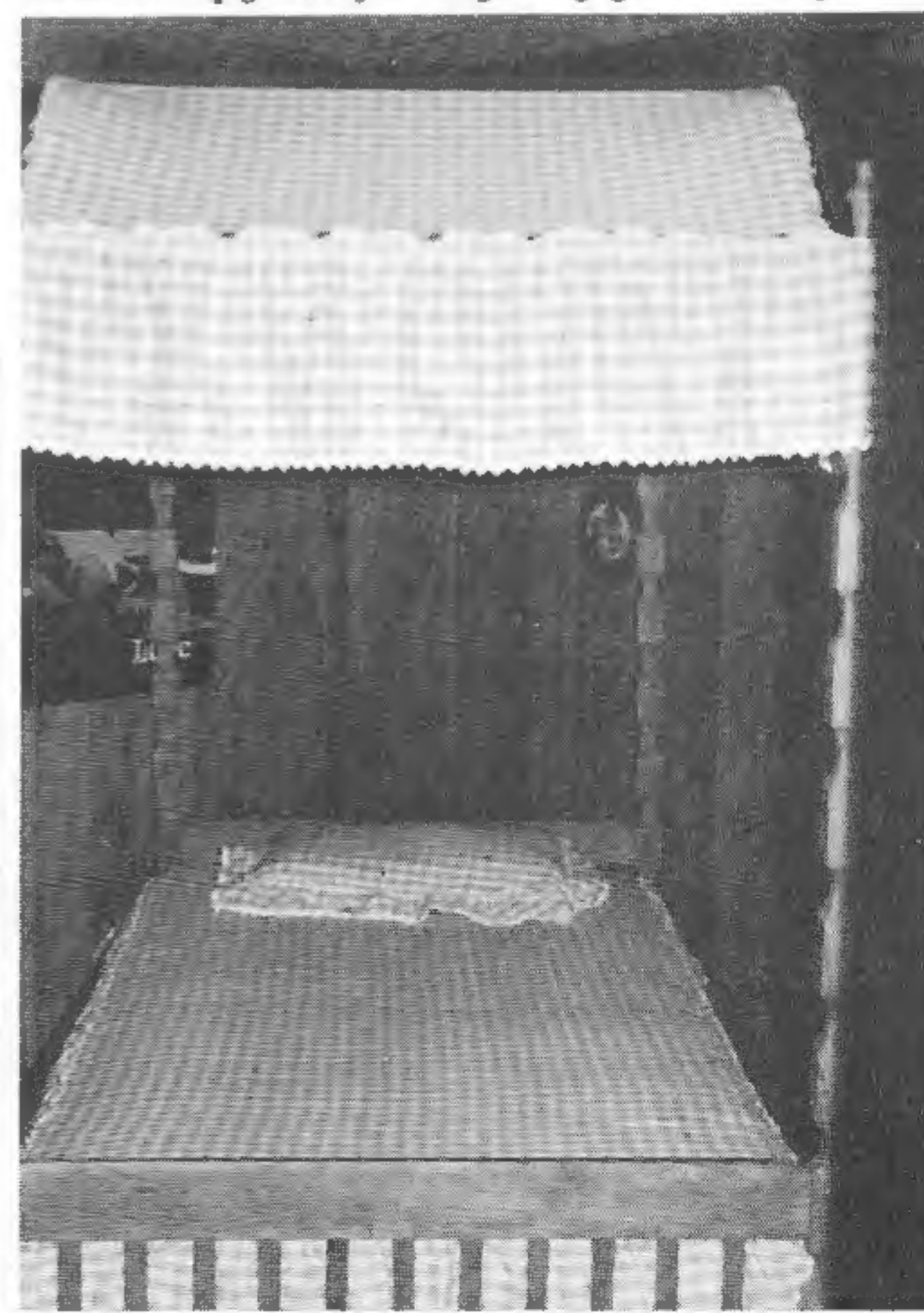


Thor Homme



Van Hereford, Baton Rouge

Gail W. Richardson, Nelson Station, built this canopy bed for a young granddaughter.



Port Arthur



Baton Rouge



Christmas Album

Conroe



Baton Rouge



Lake Charles

Navasota



Lafayette



Beaumont



Jennings



Silsbee

Beaumont service center



Orange



Lake Charles

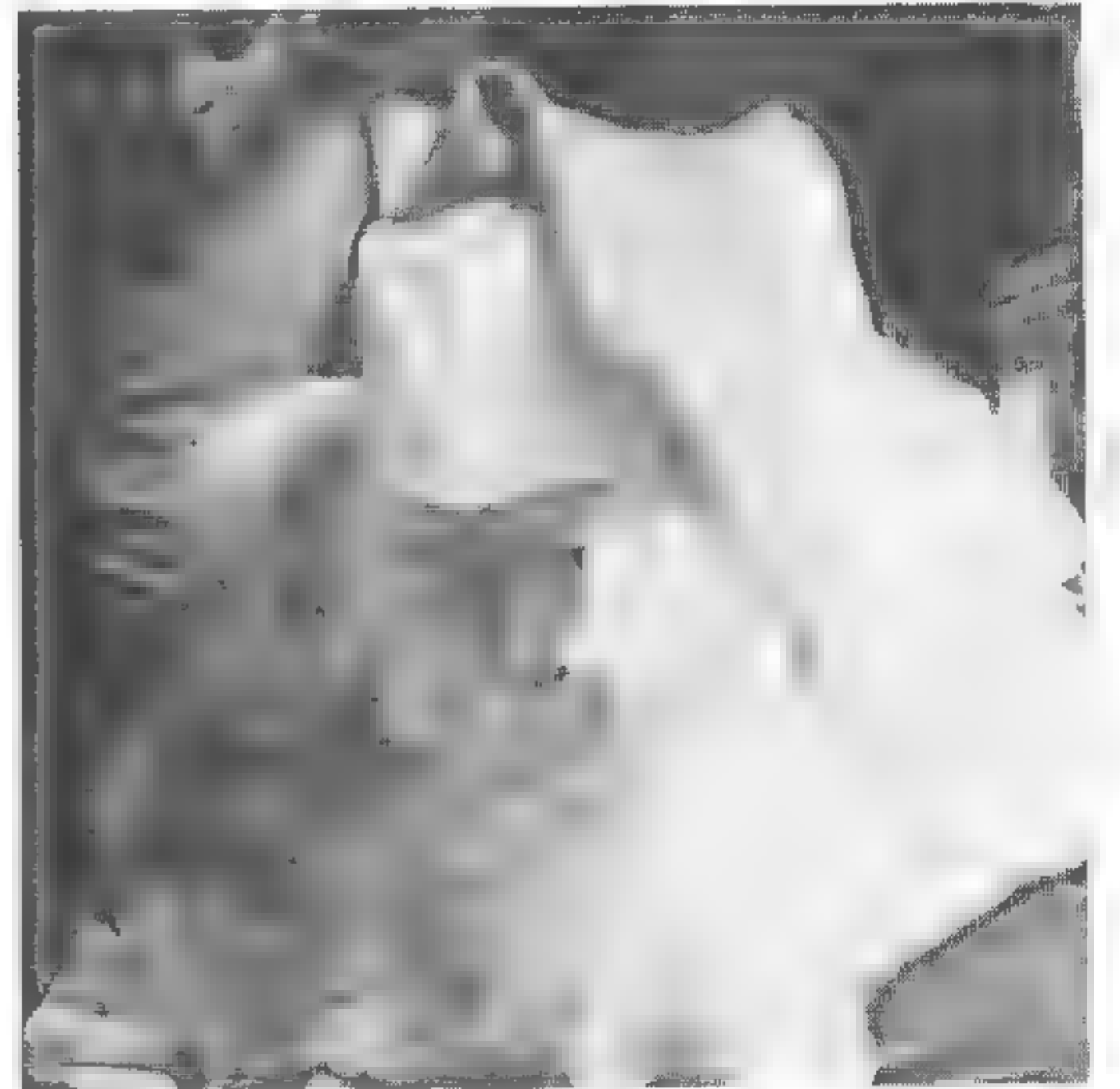
Beaumont



New Caney



Baton Rouge



Baton Rouge

Port Arthur



Cleveland

Choctaw



Lafayette



Orange



Jennings



Orange



Silsbee



Beaumont



Lake Charles

Meet your correspondent: Anna Raymond of Lake Charles

When Anna Raymond traveled to England last September, she paid the obligatory visit to the Tower of London.

She also traveled to view six other towers — the cooling towers of what she described as “a very large coal-fired electric plant”



A Tower of London “beefeater” (guide) poses with Mrs. Raymond.

near Winchester.

Now a senior stenographer for Lake Charles consumer services and a *Plain Talks* correspondent, Mrs. Raymond is a former writer and radio announcer who can't quite shake her curiosity about newsworthy events. And to Mrs. Raymond, who works for the division that will have GSU's first coal-fired power plant, coal generation is news.

Although Mrs. Raymond worked as a writer, announcer and sales representative for Lake Charles radio station KPLC before her marriage, she did not return to work until 1968 following a 20-year career as housewife and mother of two sons, Kirby and Scott.

Listing travel, photography and her three grandsons as her main interests now, Mrs. Raymond admits that her trip to England

was one of the high points of the past year. While there, she spent one afternoon sightseeing with former GSUer Patsy Thyssen, who now lives near London with her husband and daughter.

“I found England as beautiful as it was when I went there six years ago. Everyone has flower gardens in front of their homes,” she exclaims.

Mrs. Raymond is a licensed notary public, licensed real estate sales person and an active member of the Church of the Good Shepherd. She serves as treasurer of that Episcopal church's St. Cecilia Guild.

Despite her activities, Mrs. Raymond says she enjoys finding time to write about other Gulf Staters and their favorite pastimes. Lake Charles Division employees with story ideas should contact her at extension 238.

RECIPE EXCHANGE

Rufus Mier, superintendent-consumer services for the Port Arthur Division, reveals that he began cooking as “a matter of survival.”

But his wife Dorothy was not at fault.

Instead, when Mier was in Louisiana at the beginning of his Gulf States career, he belonged to a duck camp where he “didn't like their cooking.” Mier simply took on the job.

Although Mier concedes that Mrs. Mier remains the family's resident chef, he occasionally prepares Cajun-style dishes at home. Most of his cookery, however, is for large gatherings, usually outdoors, featuring steaks, gumbo or seafood.

Mier, who joined the company in May, 1949, says he really began cooking in earnest in 1955 when he

was moved into a now-discontinued position called commercial sales representative. “We sold commercial cooking equipment and often put together meals for demonstrations,” he explains. In conjunction with the assignment, the company enrolled Mier in a weeklong Hotpoint cooking school.

Although the Miers have four children, only 9-year-old Artie remains at home. There are three grandchildren.

Mier refined the following recipe into a marinade sauce after another GSUer, Robert W. “Bob” Derby of Lake Charles, had experimented with sprinkling some of the same ingredients onto steaks.

For 50 broiled steaks
3/4 cup prepared mustard
3/4 cup worcestershire sauce

1/4 cup Louisiana red hot sauce
3 tablespoons salt
3 tablespoons red pepper
3 teaspoons black pepper

For 15 broiled steaks

1/4 cup prepared mustard
1/4 cup worcestershire sauce
1 tablespoon Louisiana red hot sauce
1 tablespoon salt
1 tablespoon red pepper
1 teaspoon black pepper

Stir all ingredients together to form a light, pasty sauce. Brush on generously on both sides of steaks before broiling.





Kay "Cookie" Schroeder of the Real Estate Department reviews some details of right-of-way plans that would involve land owned by the Brown brothers of Dayton. The brothers are rice farmers.

by Susan Gilley
Plain Talks Editor

Real Estate 'Detective'

Kay "Cookie" Schroeder describes her work as a right-of-way representative for the system Real Estate Department as being "a little bit like detective work."

A lot of her time, she reveals, is spent searching out facts from county courthouse records, maps and Real Estate Department records. She also spends time meeting with appraisers, consulting with attorneys and checking property.

Her position requires her to acquire rights of way, including negotiating a fair consideration for the landowner, and to help settle property damage claims.

But the job requires more than an affinity for sleuthing: "You have to like people," she asserts.

It also does not hurt to be familiar with the legal processes involved in land transactions, she notes. Although Mrs. Schroeder has completed two years at Lamar University and would like to enroll in the school's paralegal and real estate programs, she admits that her fulltime Gulf States' career and role as mother of three has slowed down her studies.

Mrs. Schroeder is one of more than 20 employees assigned to the Real Estate Department, which is charged as a whole with acquiring land and land rights, managing property leases, rentals and sales and maintaining accurate records of real estate transactions in order to optimize company revenues and expenditures and to meet

scheduling requirements.

According to Jim Cornelius, director-real estate, the department is divided into three sections — survey, right of way and real estate. Supervising the sections are Ray Welch, survey; Joe Chaney, real estate; and Ed Cryer and Jack Sirman, right of way. In addition, Mary Schlicher, coordinator-real estate records, heads a section responsible for maintaining and filing real estate records.

A 4½-year GSU veteran formerly assigned to drafting, Mrs. Schroeder was promoted into her present position two years ago. Those drafting skills are coming in handy now, she says. "There's a lot of map work and, since you're going out to contact the property owners (to negotiate on the company's behalf), you want to know as much about the land as you can."

Before going to work for Gulf States, Mrs. Schroeder acquired several years' experience as a draftsman with other firms. She also taught drafting at Vidor High School for one year.

A native of China, she and her husband, Ronnie, make their home in that small southeast Texas town along with their three children, Scott, 9, Kristi, 7 and Wendy, 5. Schroeder also works in Beaumont.

The Beaumont employee says she has frequent contact with the attorneys in the firm of Orgain, Bell and Tucker, GSU's legal representatives, most recently on

some condemnation suits.

She explains that the company has the right to initiate such action to acquire land for a public purpose after it has exhausted every effort to acquire it through amicable negotiations. Condemnation and its counterpart under Louisiana law — expropriation — are legal terms meaning to modify the property rights of an individual. As the terms relate to GSU, they would probably mean seeking to establish right of way for transmission or distribution lines, despite opposition from the owner.

During a recent business outing to Dayton, Mrs. Schroeder recalled an earlier visit to the area when she had to meet a soybean farmer who claimed that a line crew had driven through his soybean fields during an emergency call around midnight.

The farmer drove her to the site in a four-wheel drive vehicle so she could measure and take pictures of the affected area. Then she had to contact the Liberty County agriculture extension agent to determine the estimated average yield for the amount of land involved. Finally she and the farmer agreed on a settlement that covered the loss of about 60 bushels of beans.

While that particular landowner was friendly, Mrs. Schroeder admits that she has had some confrontations with rather upset landowners.

Despite those rare incidents, she declares, "My work is definitely a challenge."



Bordemans adopt five children

Charles Bordeman, Beaumont Division accounting superintendent, and his wife, Jo Ann, recently adopted five children.

The Bordeman family includes three other children, too.

Co-workers honored the Bordemans with a surprise shower on December 9th.

The new little Bordemans are Melissa, 1; David, 2; Richard, 3; and Michael and Christine, 4-year old twins.



GSUers travel to Gilley's

The three couples shown in the picture were among about 46 GSUers and friends who traveled to Gilley's of Pasadena on October 18th.

Shown at the front are Claudia Wilkes and Larry Davis and on the back row (from left) Jolene and Joe Russian and Ruth and Joe Roberts.

The group chartered a bus to the night spot.

Beaumonters sing Christmas carols at Lunch Bunch

Nearly 30 Beaumont employees gave up several lunch hours to practice for a Christmas carol performance they gave at noon December 8, 15 and 22 in the auditorium of the main office building.

The caroling was held in conjunction with the Lunch Bunch, an entertainment/educational event held every Monday during lunch in the downtown Beaumont office. Employees are served free coffee and soft drinks and bring along brown bag lunches to munch on while various individuals or groups are featured.

Those participating in the GSU Christmas choir were Mike Bibby, Ken Sandberg, Hal Tierney, Calvin Thomas, L. L. Tynes, C. L. Byars, Paul Anawaty, Ward McCurtain, Rick Fulton, Norman Ener, J. Gonzales, Carl Jones, James Perry Jr., Louis Perroni, Les Jones, Renee Lewis, Molly Field, Frances Engelbrecht, Melodie Thompson, Carolyn Theobald, Jean McClammy, Karen McConnell, Lynette Smith, Carliss Jones, Millie Adams and Miki Reed. Guitarist was Ernie Cormier and pianist was Dorcyle McClure.

Adams, Boyd report successful hunt



Two Western Division employees — John Adams, district consumer service representative in New Caney, and Steve Boyd, collector in Conroe — reported a successful deer hunt during a week's vacation at a deer lease in Huntsville in November.

The men, who were college roommates at Louisiana Tech University where they played football with Terry Bradshaw, each killed two deer. On Tuesday of that week, Adams (shown in the picture) killed the spike shown at the left at 7:30 a.m. and then killed the six-point at 10 a.m. Not to be outdone, Boyd killed a four-point that Wednesday and a six-point that Friday.

Co-workers celebrate with mini cake



Glenn McGuire's November birthday was observed by Orange employees with a tiny "but tasty" birthday cake, reports Nancy Thibodaux. McGuire, a serviceman-first class who never did divulge his age, was presented a sliver of cake adorned with lighted birthday candles.

Thibodaux said, "A crumb of cake was had by all."



Ducks bagged in Louisiana

Two Willow Glen Station employees joined six other persons in a mid-November duck hunt in south Louisiana that resulted in bagging of 155 ducks.

Shown in the picture are K. E. McCullough (left), mechanical maintenance supervisor, and J. E. Zammit, general maintenance supervisor. The hunt took place on Pecan Island.



Stewart transfers to Beaumont

Conroe co-workers honored Alex Stewart on November 28th upon his transfer to Beaumont.

Stewart, a former T&D engineer in the Western Division, is now a design engineer with the system substation and transmission department.

Priests collect tree ornaments

E. L. Priest, district superintendent of the Dayton office, and his wife, Pearl, have collected so many Christmas tree ornaments over the past 40 years that they can only assume that they have about 2,000 now.

The couple's Christmas tree was a local tradition for almost 30 years as they held an annual open house for Liberty County residents. In 1980, however, poor health forced Priest and his wife to cancel the yearly event.



The tree, a 7½-foot artificial model bound to the wall to keep it from toppling over, features about 700 lights, in addition to the ornaments.

And Priest reveals that its branches contain just about anything you can think of, including "the kitchen sink." The couple purposely sought out a miniature kitchen sink after several on-lookers told them they had everything but that, he explains.

Each year, the tree is topped with the same angel that has adorned each holiday tree since the couple married 40 years ago this January.

Priest also recently observed his 40th anniversary with Gulf States.



Quartet entertains Jennings group

Jennings employees were entertained by a local barber shop quartet during their September safety supper. Plain Talks Correspondent Casey Richert reported that the quartet (shown in the picture) includes "one of our competitors!" Decoy Dover (shown at the far left) is with a rural electric cooperative.

Hubert receives trophy, money

Jimmy Hubert, serviceman-first class in Port Arthur, recently received a first-place trophy and a \$100 gift certificate from the Saltwater Anglers League of Texas (SALT).



Hubert accumulated the highest number of points during the season. The association hosts four or five tournaments each year and each of Hubert's red fish weighed in at more than six pounds.

Claude Stracener: Parttime Fireman

A jilted boyfriend once dispatched Lumberton volunteer firemen to the scene of his former love's wedding.

Gulf Stater Claude Stracener was among those who burst upon the scene and, although he can now chuckle a little at the memory, he points out that false fire alarms are never a joking matter.

A 40-year GSU veteran, Stracener is a serviceman-first class on the job, but after hours he dons the hat of district fire

chief and president of Lumberton's all-volunteer fire-fighting team. Serious calls for help — an average of 12 to 14 each month — keep him busy then, too.

Lumberton is recognized as one of the fastest-growing areas of Hardin County and its fire department covers the entire Lumberton school district and Pine Island Bayou and Village Creek residential areas, as well as fanning out toward Kountze. Stracener's district is the southern territory.

A former resident of nearby

Beaumont, where he still works, Stracener reveals that he moved to Lumberton because he tired of "the city."

He notes that the 32-person department "has a real fast response time" and has earned "one of the top ratings for a volunteer department." According to Stracener, the volunteer department has the same rating as that of the paid Beaumont Fire Department.

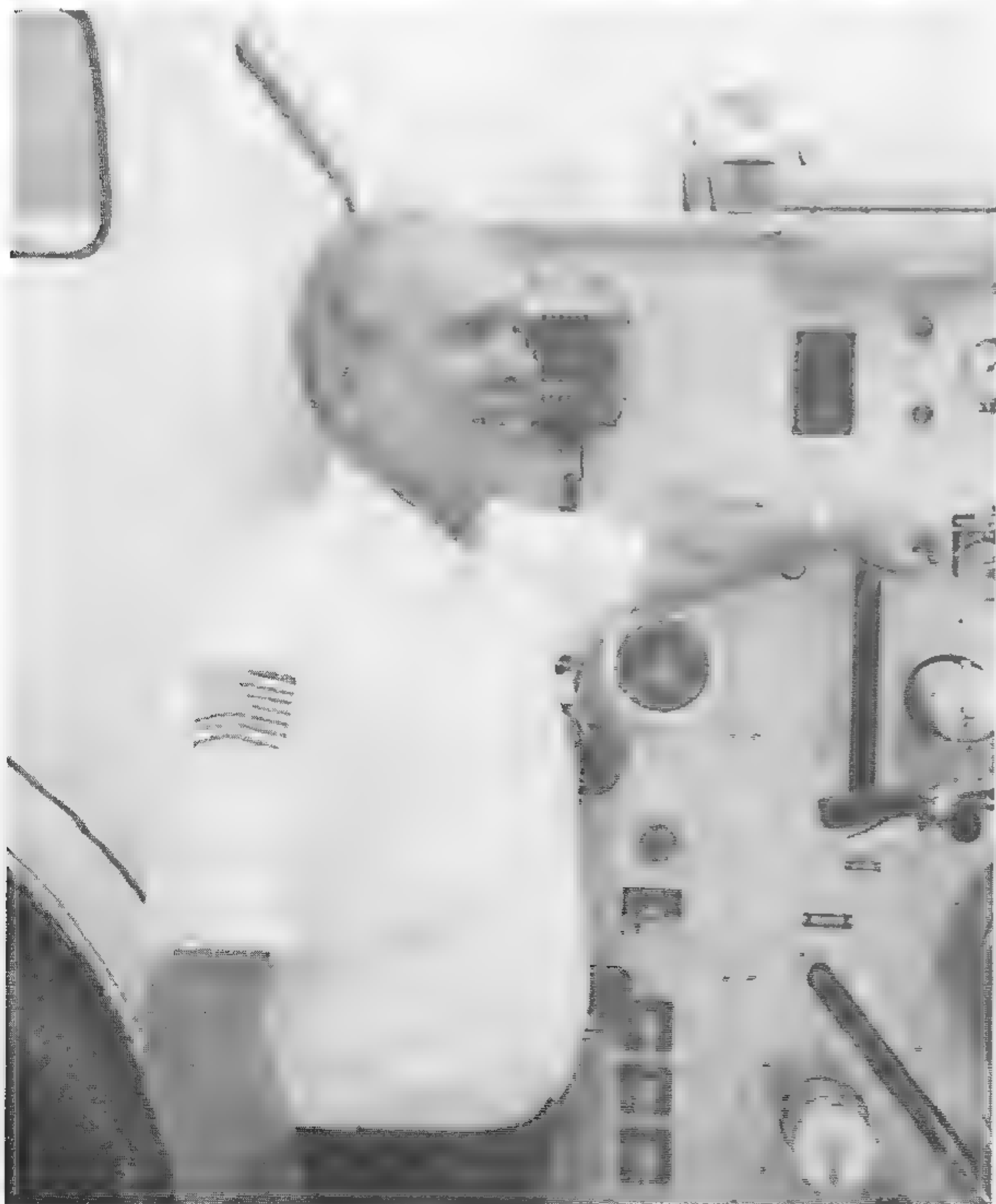
The Lumberton department even has one member who is a district chief in Beaumont. Although Beaumont's Glenn Singleton serves as the volunteer department's certified training officer, he is not paid for that service. Department members hold a business meeting the first Monday of each month, then the next three Mondays are drill nights, Stracener reveals.

Equipped with a new \$63,000 pumper truck, two other engines, a rescue unit and a small grass fire unit, the department receives a three percent cut of county tax money. The rest of its revenue must come from fundraising efforts. In addition to an annual spring fund drive, the department hosts a turkey shoot every Sunday in October.

Stracener views the department as "a civic organization helping people in need," commenting, "We'd be in bad shape if it weren't for the fire department."

Despite the department's volunteer status, enough crew members work different shifts at area industries to have fire-fighters available around the clock. That availability frequently pays off. Stracener recalls an incident a couple of years ago when an oil tanker overturned on Highway 96. Volunteer fire-fighters were able to get to the scene in time to remove the trapped driver from the fiery wreckage with the Jaws of Life.

Stracener and his wife, Ruth, have six children and 12 grandchildren.



Claude Stracener

ON THE MOVE

Anderson, Warren W., formerly of Sabine 5 site, mechanical inspector, to Nelson Coal Site, Fossil Projects.

Aubin, Paul G., River Bend Site, to supervisor-material, building and grounds, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Belk, Alzena W., Beaumont, to stenographer-executive, Human Resources.

Cassell, Tommy L., Nelson Coal Plant, to storeroom supervisor, System Production.

Caywood, Janna U., Beaumont, accountant, to Power Plant Engineering & Design.

Cohee, Gary A., Beaumont, engineer, to System Production.

Corbitt, David L., Baton Rouge, to party chief, T&D Engineering.

Cowles, Julia P., Nelson Coal Site, to purchasing agent, Materials Management.

Creel, Raymond W., Baton Rouge, to claims representative, Division Accounting.

DeJean, Joseph E., Beaumont, to director-Edison Plaza Programs, General Services.

Faggard, James V., Sabine Station, to shift supervisor, Plant Production.

Gautreau, Murphy J., Baton Rouge, to meter reader supervisor, Division Accounting.

Gazda, Michael A., formerly of Beaumont, engineer, to Conroe T&D Engineering.

Griffith, Bridget L., Beaumont, to personnel stenographer, Human Resources.

Grisham, Rose W., formerly of Beaumont, to industrial relations representative, Human Resources, Nelson Coal Site.

Hartt, Roy B., Beaumont, to senior system operator, Power Supply.

Head, Norman D., Beaumont, is named Manager-Special Economic Projects.

Jackson, William R., Beaumont, to electrical engineer, Power Plant Engineering & Design.

King, Gerald V., River Bend Site, to supervisor-quality engineering, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Kuritz, Clifford C., Beaumont, to senior system operator, Power Supply.

Landrum, James R., Beaumont, to senior accountant, Accounting Services.

Mauer, John F., Beaumont, to supervisor-income tax, Tax & Accounting Research.

McCorvy, Brenda H., Beaumont, to personnel department clerk, Human Resources.

Oberg, James G., Beaumont, to senior system operator, Power Supply.

Pitman, Dennis L., Beaumont, to assistant inventory analyst, Materials Management.

Podraza, Marion F., Conroe, to utility foreman, T&D Substation.

Schauerman, Gary L., formerly of Neches Station, engineer, to Beaumont System Production.

Sellers, Robert L., formerly of Sabine Station, to operation supervisor, Plant Production, Nelson Coal Plant.

Skinner, Douglas D., Beaumont, to senior system operator, Power Supply.

Stewart, Alexander T., formerly of Conroe, engineer, to Beaumont Engineering Design.

Stewart, John R., Baton Rouge, to area development representative, Division Consumer Services.

Wallace, John A., Beaumont, engineer, to Transmission Planning.

Wiggins, Robert W., Beaumont, to senior system operator, Power Supply.

SERVICE AWARDS

40
years

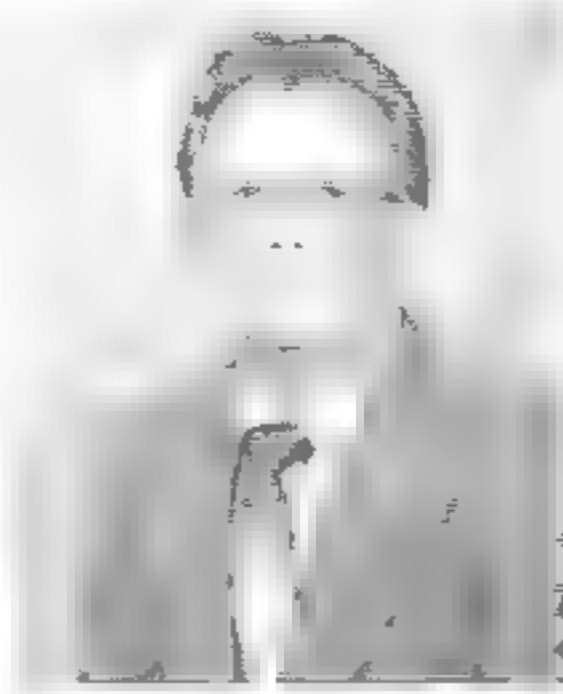


E. L. Priest
Division Operations
Dayton

30
years



Rolan Goodson
Electric T & D
Conroe



Lawrence J. Sonnier
Electric T & D
Orange

20
years



Odell Jarrell Jr.
Plant Production
Louisiana Station

10
years



Danny V. Coleman
Electric T & D
Sulphur



Ronald M. Rollins
System Engineering
Beaumont



Murry E. Greer
Human Resources
Baton Rouge



Emile V. Wilson
Plant Production
Louisiana Station



Kenneth T. Webb
Computer Applications
Beaumont



Michael T. Freeman
Plant Production
Beaumont



Perry J. Walker
Plant Production
Sabine Station



Arnulfo Hernandez
Division Accounting
Orange



C. B. Jackson
Plant Production
Conroe

RCS Program to begin soon

Editor's Note: 1981 marks the beginning of the Residential Conservation Service (RCS) Program throughout the nation. At Gulf States, the undertaking is expected to cost \$4 million over a five-year period. Although the RCS Program is federally mandated, the states play an important role in its administration, implementation and enforcement. Failure to heed the mandate could lead to a \$25,000 penalty. The program was established by provisions of Title II of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act and amended by the Energy Security Act of 1980. The lead agencies in each state within the GSU service area are the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and the Texas Energy and Natural Resources Advisory Council (TENRAC). Here, Jo Ann Smith, manager-consumer information, offers some insights into GSU's RCS Program.

PT: How did the RCS Program come into existence?

Smith: It was established in response to the federal mandate to provide utility programs to encourage and facilitate the installation of energy conservation and renewable resource measures in existing residences.

PT: How will the program accomplish those goals?

Smith: The home energy audit is the primary tool for attaining the goals of the act, but electric utilities selling more than 750 million kilowatthours annually and gas utilities producing over 10 billion cubic feet annually — those who must participate — will also likely have to arrange for installation of certain energy-efficient items in the homes of customers. GSU and other utilities will also have additional responsibilities in the areas of customer billing, reporting and record keeping.

PT: Who, besides the covered utilities and the lead state agencies, is involved in implementation of the program?

Smith: In our service area alone, the players involved are the federal Department of Energy (DOE), the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT), the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC), home heating suppliers, non-regulated utilities, lenders and contractors and suppliers.

PT: Is the federal mandate for utilities to offer all bill-paying customers a home energy audit?

Smith: The program must be made available to utility bill-paying occupants of single family homes, mobile homes and apartments of up to four units.

PT: What is the timetable for offering the RCS Program?

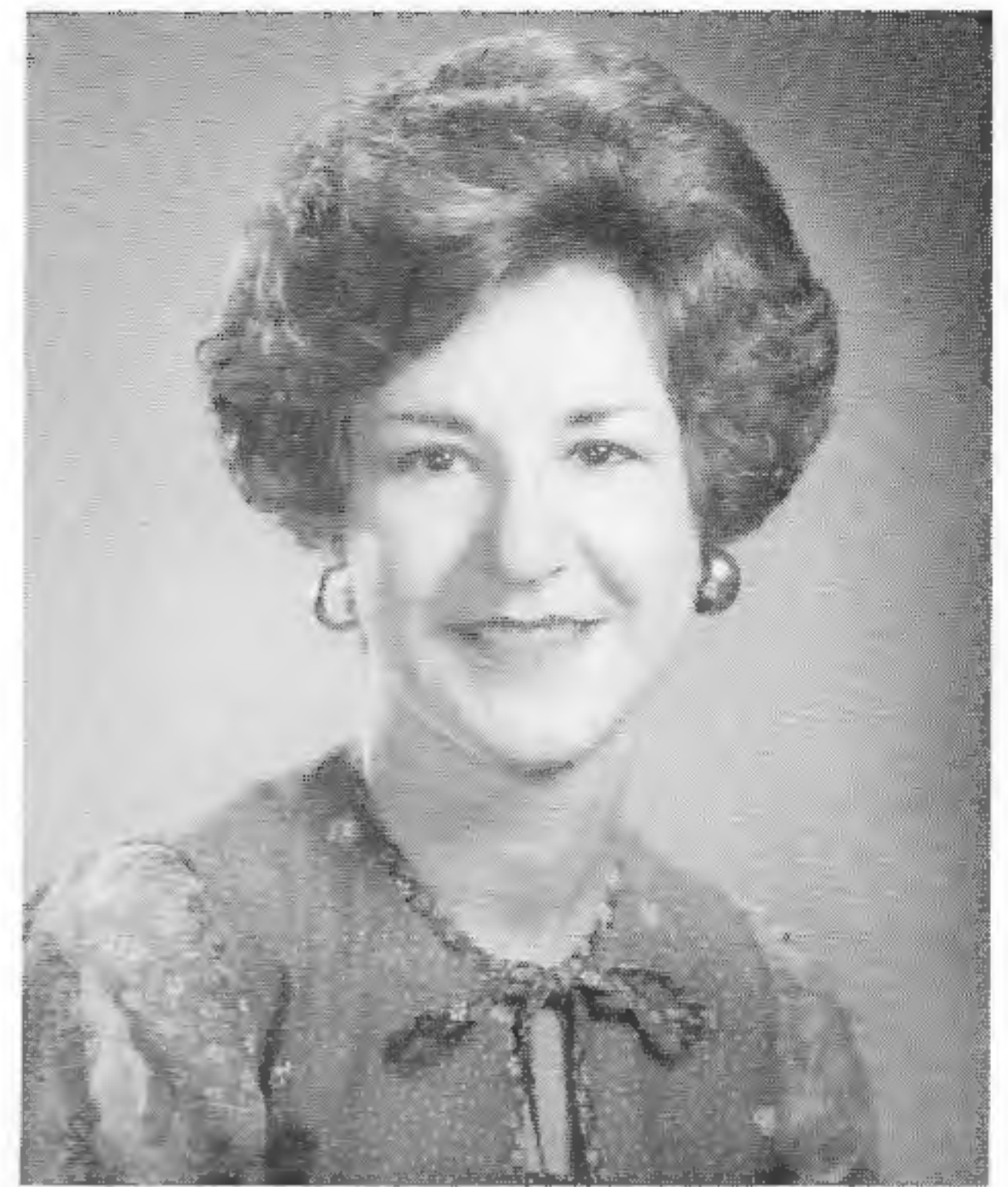
Smith: After the state plans are approved, Gulf States will have a certain number of days in which to announce the program to customers before offering the first audit. Although program participants were given six months in which to make the announcement, delays in submitting the state plans resulted in shorter announcement periods. We expect that our state plans will have been okayed before the end of January, then we will have 168 days in which to announce the program in Texas and 155 days to announce it in Louisiana. We expect to announce around April or May and begin auditing the following month.

PT: Is the current staff of GSU home energy auditors big enough to handle the job?

Smith: We have requested additional auditors in each division.

PT: What happens after the initial audit?

Smith: Recommendations for



improving energy conservation are made as a result of the audit. Under the company's voluntary program, which has been in effect since 1978, the auditor simply gave the customer a copy of his audit, along with the estimated payback for recommended items. Under RCS, the auditor must arrange for installation and arrange for financing that might involve payments through the customer's utility bill if the customer requests to take such measures. In Louisiana, the auditor will then have to follow up with post-installation inspections, but in Texas, such inspections will be conducted by the state Bureau of Labor and Standards.

PT: Why will the program cost Gulf States so much?

Smith: Next to personnel costs, the biggest expense will be for the announcement mailings. You have to understand that the RCS Program is very prescriptive. After two years, the program will be re-announced for persons who may have missed the earlier publicity. Also, it will be expensive to purchase sophisticated auditing equipment, such as calculators and equipment related to performing solar audits. Training will be another expense.

PT: Will the company be able to recover any of the costs?

Smith: Yes. In addition to being able to direct-bill customers who are audited a \$15 audit fee, the company will be able to recover the rest of the cost through rate filings.

Coal represents energy solution

If the supply of coal available to U.S. electric utilities does not increase dramatically during the next 20 years, the effect could be a serious energy shortfall, according to the lead article in the October, 1980, issue of the *EPRI Journal*.

Our nation is sitting atop a potential solution to its energy problems — hundreds of billions of tons of coal, according to the *Journal*. But coal in the ground is only raw material for the solution; the nation must face the challenge associated with coal supply and consumption.

By the year 2000, according to an EPRI estimate, the United States will require approximately three times the coal produced in 1978 — about two billion tons annually. To satisfy this demand, coal production will have to increase at an average rate of 4.7 percent per year.

Thomas Browne, a project manager in EPRI's Supply Program, is optimistic about the coal supply challenge: "Exploration, mining, labor and transportation all have potential problems, but none of them appear to be unsolvable."

Supply challenges occur even before mines are opened, the *Journal* story explains. Information on the mineability and marketability of coal from a prospective mine is vital, both to the mining company that will develop the mine and sell the coal and to the utility that will buy and burn the coal.

Utilities, which use two-thirds of the nation's coal output, need information on a coal's Btu, sulphur and ash content, as well as on other characteristics, so that they can properly design new boilers or contract for the right type of coal to supply existing plants. But, without coal contracts for power plants under construc-

tion or for existing plants, mining companies are reluctant to risk opening new mines.

The *Journal* refers to the conclusions of a recently completed World Coal Study (Wocol) which states that "the technology for mining, moving and using coal is established and steadily improving. The amount of capital needed to triple the production and use of coal and greatly expand world coal trade is well within the capacity of the world's capital markets."

Utility industry demand for coal will be the mobilizing force behind the exploration of new reserves, the establishment of new mines, the recruiting and training of miners and the expansion of transportation systems.

New system to help manage peak loads

By 1985, a battery system that's expected to be the world's largest will be helping utilities find ways to manage their peak load demands more economically and efficiently. The project is being jointly funded by the EPRI, the Department of Energy and two Michigan power cooperatives.

The six-million-pound lead acid battery system — which will cover a half-acre — will be built as part of a \$20.3 million Storage Battery Electric Energy Demonstration (SBEED) project. The system will be located in Hersey, Michigan, north of Grand Rapids.

The two cooperatives — Wolverine Electric Cooperative of Big Rapids and Northern Michigan Electric Cooperative of Boyne City — will design, build and test the SBEED plant. SBEED will demonstrate the feasibility of operating a commercial-scale battery energy storage plant for utility use during peak demand periods.

The battery array for SBEED

will cost \$8.5 million and consist of 2,280 battery modules. It will be capable of storing 30 megawatt-hours of electricity, enough to light 100,000 light bulbs (100 watt) for three hours.

DOE will put \$11.3 million into the project, the two power cooperatives will contribute \$8 million and EPRI will provide \$1 million. Completion of project design is expected in 1981, construction in 1984 and the beginning of commercial operation in 1985.

EPRI's Starr suggests studies overstate potential

Dr. Chauncey Starr, EPRI vice chairman, led a team of nuclear scientists from EPRI in recommending that the NRC undertake a reexamination of the scientific basis upon which future emergency procedures are to be determined.

"Eighteen years ago the government established the technical specification of the 'source term'," Starr told the NRC, "which has been used in calculations of the public risk that might result from an extreme nuclear accident." He added that, "source term refers to the quantity, mix and rate of emission of radioactive isotopes estimated to enter the environment from the site of a damaged nuclear plant.

Because no "large body of empirical information" was available at that time, in 1962, to draw upon, Starr said the "source term" was "arbitrarily assumed to involve a substantial fraction of the radioactive elements contained in a nuclear reactor core."

After reviewing the increased information that has been garnered since 1962, however, Starr said the evidence suggests that the "real 'source term' is likely to result in risk to the public that is 10 to 100 times less" than the potential risk "source term" now in use.

Gas company explains predicament

GSU, like other utilities, is constantly on the lookout for effective ways to clear away customer confusion about fuel costs. It is doubtful that the approach used by a natural gas supplier in the Abilene area will catch on, but it certainly merits mention as one of the more innovative approaches to be found anywhere.

Ramgas, Inc., published the following notice in the Abilene Reporter-News under the headline "Ramgas Customers, Please Take Notice":

"You will note on Sept.-Oct. gas bills a raise of 30 cents per 1,000 cubic feet. Ramgas isn't getting a penny from this. Our supplier, El Paso, raised the price that much. Ramgas cannot absorb that raise. Those of you all using our services may want to resort to other types of energy. We don't know the price of propane, but here are figures you can use. It requires 10 gallons of propane to deliver as much heat as 1,000 cubic feet of gas. You may want to check on the economy of a heat pump. Wood is perhaps the highest priced fuel you can use if

you don't chop it down yourself.

"To convert your heating equipment from natural gas to propane requires no more skill than baking a pan of cornbread.

"If anyone thinks he can run Ramgas cheaper than we can, it's for sale.

"Ramgas doesn't solicit customers. We wish we didn't have any so we could salvage our equipment and quietly steal away."

Kim McMurray

More Mailbox

Calvin Hebert
Gulf States Utilities
Baton Rouge, La.

Sir:

I wish to thank your company for the energy savings assistance given to others like me. Despite the increased cost of gas and electricity resulting from the sharp increase of fuel costs, my own costs have remained the same up until now.

Your Mr. Bruce Nolen examined my home and gave me recommendations which have effectively reduced my usage of energy without sacrifice on my part.

Congratulations again on your program.

Gordon B. Massengale
Baton Rouge, La.

Gulf States Utilities Co.
Conroe, Texas

Gentlemen:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for offering to help, if help is needed, in paying this bill.

I want to thank God for the money that I have to meet all my obligations. I realize that we are most fortunate—more so than many. There may come a time when I will need help.

Let's hope that that day will never come.

Sincerely yours,
E. C. Rainoshek

Frank J. Robinson
Gulf States Utilities
Huntsville, Texas

Dear Frank,

I appreciate very much the visit and analysis by your representative, Mr. Kenneth R. Penney.

His visit was thorough, professional and courteous. He gave me a sound basis for energy conservation in my home, much of which I can accomplish at less cost than I had anticipated.

I trust that this fine service by Gulf States will catch on. I will pass the good word.

Sincerely,
Ray Lynch
Brigadier General, USA (retired)

W. Donham Crawford
Gulf States Utilities
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Crawford:

In speaking for the Sideliners of the Lake Charles Division, we want to thank you for the very nice and informative tour of the River Bend facility. We were impressed and have a much better knowledge of the project.

We also thank you for the trip, the fine meal and tour of the plantation home. It was most enjoyable. We appreciate your continuous support and consideration. We assure you we are still very interested in our company.

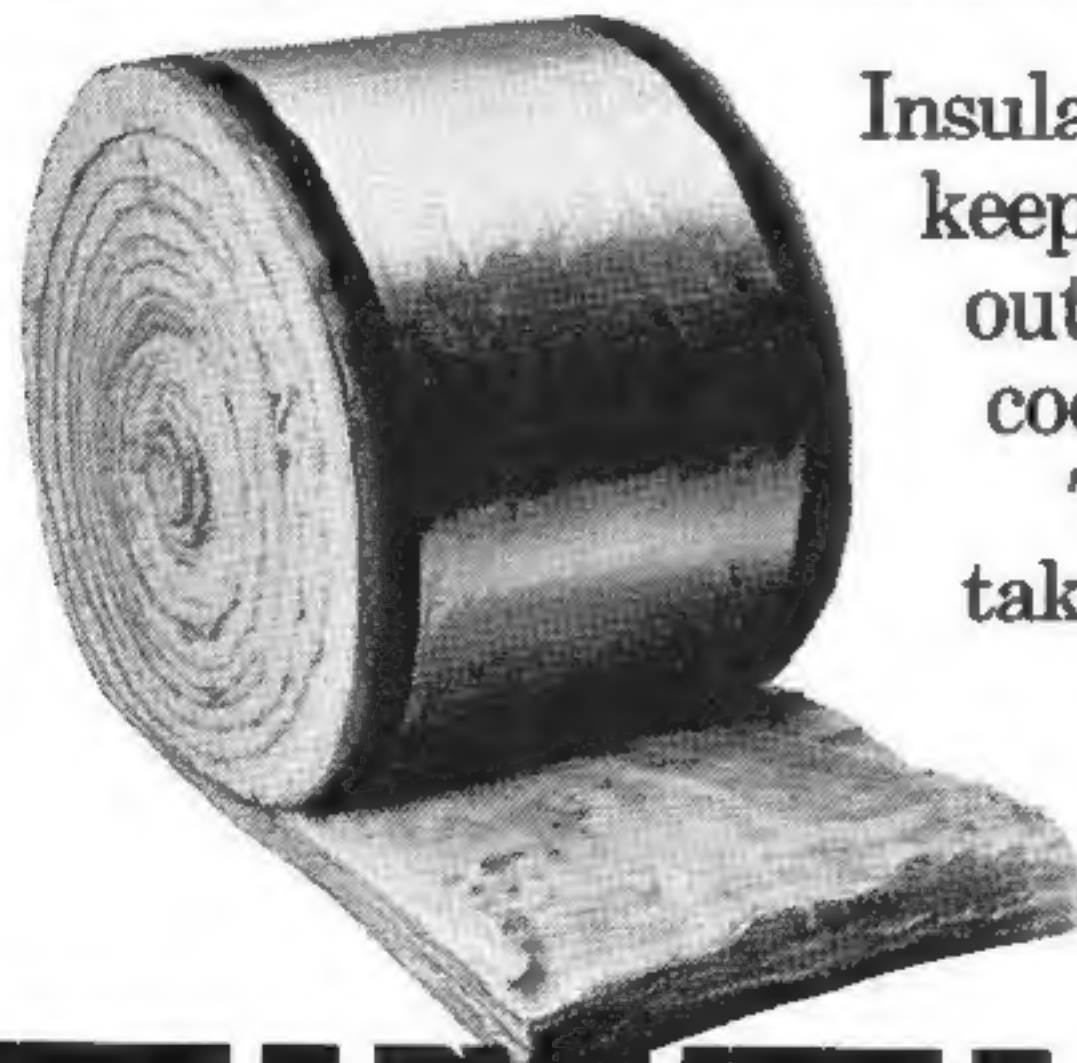
Sincerely,
Walter House
President
Lake Charles Division Sideliners

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KEEP IT UP, AMERICA.



Insulating your home helps
keep the heat in and the cold
out in winter and also retains
cool air in summer.

The more steps like this we
take, the more energy—and
money—we'll save.

So, keep it up, America!

LITTLE BY LITTLE, IT ALL ADDS UP.

